

Historic Lehi Main Street

By Carl Mellor

Business development of Historic Main Street was limited to First to Second West before 1900. After 1900, Center to First West became a business developed area. Until this time, the Canute Peterson family occupied most of the North side of Main and the Andrew Peterson family lived on the south side of Main between Center and First West.

West of 500 West was known as Bridge Street. Main Street ran to 100 East and turned North to State Street. The Section on 100 East was known as East Main.

A Beautification Plan

Before 1921, when Main Street was paved, Main Street was a muddy, dirty, dusty mess. In 1882, some enterprising residents attempted to beautify Main Street by planting poplar trees on both sides. Twelve years later the trees had grown and provided a shady cool street in the summer. Uncovered irrigation ditches crossed Main going south at each intersection.

The shade from the beautification project kept the mud from drying, so some more enterprising residents decided that to solve the problem, all of the trees needed to be cut down--and they were. Twice a year the street was leveled and packed hard as migrating herds of sheep traveled through town-- in the spring going to the mountains and in the fall heading towards the west deserts.

Until 1900, when electric lights first were installed. Main Street was lighted at night by kerosene lamps.